spouse one evening a few weeks ago, after

cents for a yearly subscription to a fashion

a fakir or con. man or con. woman has got to do is to ring the front door bell and re-

quest or demand you to buy something or other, and you just buy it. I believe that if a barrel organ man 'ud walk up the front steps and tell you that he was going out of business in order to return to Sicily,

and ask you to buy his wheezy machine on

the spot, you'd race upstairs, dig around for the money and buy it at his own figure. I expect to come home here any old day and find that you've bought an assortment

of ring-tailed monkeys. You fall to the wheedling of itinerant bambooziers quicker'n any human being on the face of the inhabitable globe, and I know it. You—"
"But," put in Mrs. Jobson, "I've been

wanting to take this fashion paper for a long while, and was, in fact, going to send

my subscription for it, when the man came

to the door, and—"
"Yes," interrupted Mr. Johson, "that's

just it-that's the way all of these buys are

pulled off—'the man came to the door.' All these men that come to the door know

that you're a good thing. There's a sort of freemasonry among these peripatetic ped-

dlers of useless things, and they keep each other informed as to the locations of the easy marks. I wouldn't be surprised if they

made mystical hieroglyphs on the gate-

posts to indicate the locations of mistresses of households who habitually buy any old thing. Any time any fakir finds himself

with something on his hands that he can't by any possibility saw off on anybody else

he just naturally gravitates to this house-hold and gets rid of it at double rates on

you. The house is littered and cluttered up with truck that you've bought in this

way that's of no more use around this es-tablishment than so many heaps of shav-

ings. One o' these days some smooth hobo ings. One o' these days some smooth hobo will drift along this way with an assortment of bottle-green flies that he's captured with a net somewhere or other, and he'll tell you that it's a rare collection that

he's picked up after years of awful effort in the wilds of South America, and you'll get

a secret mortgage on our home in order to buy the lot from him. Nothing that you

could do in the buying line 'ud surprise me a little bit. If some oily young person were to come along here and purvey unto you for \$35 a one-dollar gun-metal watch,

telling you that it had once reposed in the pantaloons pocket of Charlemagne or Guy

Fawkes, I wouldn't be astonished at all."

Whereupon, after the delivery of this homily, and with an "I-have-spoke" manner that indicated that, having given his gide of the didn't seem that indicated that the spoke in the spok

ject. Mr. Jobson resumed consideration of his newspaper.

his newspaper.

On Tuesday afternoon last, when Mr.

Jobson arrived home from the office, he
was almost staggering under the heavy
load of a parcel that he had been compelled

to shift from one arm to the other through-out the homeward trip. Mr. Jobson wore a

ever having seen such a bargain before in all my born days."

"It's a cold-blooded steal on my part, that's what it is," answered Mr. Jobson.

'It's 'Picturesque Turkestan,' superbly il-

lustrated by some of the most eminent art-

ists that ever lived. It's in 112 numbers,

and when it was first issued the price to a

limited number of subscribers was \$2 per number. A poor unfortunate, who didn't know what a good thing he had, drifted into

at the chance? Well, I guess! And, pray, what d'ye suppose I paid for this \$224 worth of pictorial art?"

"I can't imagine," truthfully replied Mrs.

"Thirty-five dollars!" almost bawled Mr.

Jobson, in his elation. "Thirty-five dollars for a collection of pictures that can scarcely

vnat is it

old-fashioned Bibles.

looked up at Mr. Jobson and said:

Mr. Jobson reddened and his jaw fell. He

gazed reproachfully at Mrs. Jobson, and then his expression of reproach changed

"Madame," said he hoarsely, "you take me down to that book stall the first thing in

the morning, before breakfast! You take

me down there, that's all! I'll bet twenty

million dollars that you never saw any-thing of the sort! You couldn't have seen anything of the sort! It's impossible! I'm going to hold you to this, Mrs. Jobson, and

have you take me down to that book stall, and if your word in this matter is not substantiated then I give you fair warning that the end will have arrived and that

this establishment and all it contains will be put under the hammer within twenty-four hours!"

However, after a night's rest, Mr. Jobson didn't insist upon Mrs. Jobson's taking him down to the book stall. The first thing he did after donning his clothes was to carry the 112 volumes of "Picturesque Turk-

ing half of his time looking around for the

cleaginous person who purveyed that won-

derful collection of fifty-year-old wood cuts

to him. Mrs. Jobson feels assured that he

will have little if anything to say on the topic of her buying propensities for some

Cancerous Houses.

My Paris correspondent recently pro-

germs of this malignant disease. Several

correspondents mention cases within their

own knowledge which seem to show that the cancer germ attaches itself to houses

which have been occupied by cancer pa-

tients. In one case a family of healthy

girls without any cancer taint in the family

took a house at an English health resort,

not knowing that a daughter of the last oc-cupant had died of cancer. One of the girls

slept in the room where this patient had

previously died, and she herself developed

the disease. The gentleman who gives me

this case mentions two of a similar char-

acter in prairie villages in the Northwest

acter in prairie villages in the Northwest territory of Canada. In these cases there were no oak trees or other large trees for many miles around—which goes against the theory that certain trees have something to do with the propagation of the disease. Personally, I believe firmly in the infection of houses by cancer. In a house which I know well two ladies have died of this disease within some four or five years, and a third lady who occupied the same house for a short period between the tenancies of the

short period between the tenancles of the other two, though she left the house several

years back, has since developed cancer. do not know what may be the accepted doc trine among experts on this point, but I would not myself live in a house where I

knew that a death from cancer had taken

time to come.

From London Truth.

up to the attic, and now he's spend

into one of regular Jobsonian wrath.

inquired Mrs. Jobson.

side of it, he didn't care to pursue

Vicar of Wakesfield?"

spectacles?"

affirmatively.

Present Venezuelan-Colombian Strife May Involve This Country.

SPANISH REPUBLICS JEALOUS NOW

Would Be Gad to Unite Against the United States.

PAN-AMERICAN TOPICS

(Copyright, 1901.)

Written for The Evening Star by Clifford Smyth. War has been so common with our neighbors in South and Central America that really notable military achievements on battleffelds, marked with almost incredible deeds of valor, have scarcely found a headline in our daily press. We have but one comment: "They are fighting again. They are always fighting. After awhile some one will be hurt." It would be more startling in the way of news to announce that all revolutions in South America have come to an end.

The trouble that is brewing today, however, between Colombia and Venezuela is of a distinctly different character from the every-day Latin-American revolution. It is the result of a long series of causes to which the United States is not a stranger. It involves interests and questions that have to do without our own future as a nation. It suggests, finally, the possibili-

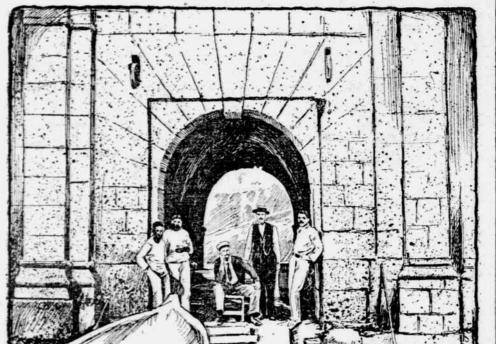
ties of a great pan-American war.

In the minds of the founders of South
American independence there was the scheme for a single government, binding together all the Latin republics in one strong union. This idea arose naturally from the fact that under Spain all South America, demonstration of the political advantages to be gained by such a federation. Thus, Boliwar conceived and carried out the plan of having Venezuela, New Grenada (now Colombia), Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia united under the one Republic of Colombia. Midden little to restore South America's conductive to restore to res randa, Bolivar's predecessor and the shrewd-er statesman of the two, went further than

IS A WAR COMING? United States, and predictions that the latter would sooner or later attempt the overter would sooner or later attempt the over-throw of South American independence became the favorite theme among journalists and politicians. "Combine! Combine!" was the rallying cry of one republic to another. The close of the war brought no abatement to this feeling or its expression. The quick and decisive success of the United States was a surprise, as well as the cause of increased alarm among those who credited this country with a desire to appropriate South America as a coto appropriate south America as a colonial possession. How should they defend themselves against this "giant of the north?" Then the political faith of the fathers was remembered, suggesting itself as the surest solution of antici-pated danger. A united continent, a "Greater Colombia," was the only possible safeguard against the Yankee hun-ger for colonies. It became popular to-emphasize the racial unity of South America, to point out the ineradicable difference between the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon; and for the first time since their war for independence Souta Americans commenced to look with a sudden friendly interest to Spain. The venerable institutions of the mother country, her tyraunies and oppressions forgotten, reappeared in a light so alluring and romantle as almost to be regretted. Things Spanish became the fashion. Ties of blood, language and eligion assumed a vital importance never before realized. A desire for a closer union with Spain found expression everywhere. Finally, on the high tide of this popular feeling, not more than a year ago. Spain herself spoke, proposing to the republics of South America that a congress composed of delegates from the various southern re-publics should meet in Madrid with a view to strengthening the bonds existing among all Spanish-speaking countries. The ostensible purpose of such a congress was not, of course, an official or governmental one. That would be to infringe the Monroe doc-trine. But it was not denied that it would have a far-reaching commercial and industrial tendency, detrimental to the Unit-ed States and favorable to European countries, against which our traditional foreign policy would be powerless. Received With Favor.

South America received this novel proposal from Spain with favor. The congress has been formed, its first session held, and although no openly avowed political program was adopted looking to the union of South America, the mere fact of such a meeting, under such auswith the exception of Brazii, was bound to one ruler; while the successful union of trend of South American opin on toward the consolidation of their political intertuce. ests, the formation of a republic that will be South American in design and extent,

fidence in our national integrity. Many of the republics have no share in the show at this in theory, and hoped to consolidate all Buffalo, and the part taken by others is Latin-America in one republic that would decidedly inadequate. What may be ac-



thus become a political rival on almost equal terms of the United States of North America But both these plans for South American unification in the early part of the century proved abortive. Bolivar's Re-Colombia went disastrously to pieces, while Miranda's program never got

In view of the present situation, the part played by the United States in the develop-ment and fate of these first plans for a republican South America is of curious interest. Athough we sent delegates in 1828 to Bolivar's famous "Panama congress," a body whose avowed purpose was to secure the political unity of all the Americas, we verbal expression of friendship. And when Bolivar, as the culmination of his labors, planned to liberate Cuba from the Spanish ominion we unhesitatingly took the part of Spain against him and successfully cked this first attempt to achieve Cuban independence. The policy of the United States at that early day was thus plainly opposed to an independent union of Latin

Sympathy With Spain.

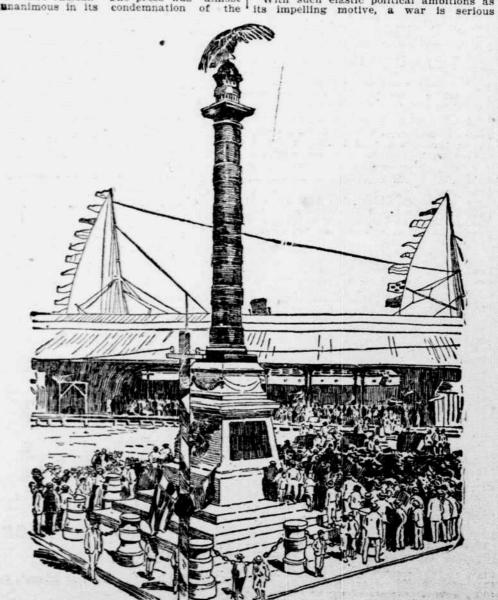
In recent years, up to the time of the Spanish-American war, the South and Central American republics were entirely contented apparently with the attitude of the United States toward their own governments. President Cleveland's famous Venezuelan message was everywhere hailed with unbounded satisfaction. His further announcement that the Monroe doctrine would be upheld was considered a guaran-tee of protection and independence to all the republics of America on the part of the United States. Then came our war with Spain, and with it one of those sudden, characteristic revulsions of feeling den, characteristic revulsions. The suspiamong our southern neighbors. The suspi-cions inherited from the days of Bolivar been informed for the immediate purpose of were revived and intensified. An intense sympathy for Spain, the "mother country," grew in popularity. The Spanish war be-came a burning issue in South American politics—an issue that, for the time being, marked the difference between conservative and radical. The press was almost

complished along this line at the Pan-American congress now meeting in the City of Mexico remains to be seen, but in the light of what is now going on quietly and secretly in South America too much need not be expected. We shall, of course, in-sist on the strict observance of the Monroe doctrine, but it may be necessary for us to go further and intervene in the interrepublic wars which seem to be forthcom-

The immediate pretext for the war be tween Colombia and Venezuela is undoubtedly a local one, if such a term is permissible. Both countries have been enjoying sible. the political unity of all the Americas, we showed our opposition to Bolivar's wishes 'this time the liberals of one country have by admitting nothing further than a mere aided their partisans in the other—Castro achieved the Venezuelan presidency through the timely assistance of the Colombian liberals, a service for which he is in honor bound to make due return in kind.

Castro's Ambitions.

But Castro has shown himself to be a man of unrestrained ambitions. His attack on Colombia is not undertaken merely to pay off a political debt. He has found the latter country weakened by a civil war that has dragged itself along with few interruptions ever since the death of President Nunez in 1894. He has thus seen the opportunity opened to him to come a sort of "savior of society," a second Bolivar, the founder of a vast republic laid out on lines that were originally chosen by the first Bolivar. A "greater Colombia" appeals to him as it appeals to many other South Americans, since the Spanish war, as the inevitable future policy to be pursued in order to preserve the integrity and independence of his country. To the furtherance of this policy he has conquering Colombia. Ecuador, Nicara-gua, Colombia, Venezuela, united under one strong government, would form the nucleus, certainly, for a formidable repub-lic—a step toward the realization of the dreams of Bolivar and Miranda. With such elastic political ambitions as



MONUMENT AT PUERTO CABELLO IN MEMORY OF AMERICA'S WHO DIED FOR VENEZUELAN INDEPENDANCE.

His program involves the other republics of Latin America as well, until he or some other South American Napo-leon wields the dictatorship over a united

We Would Interfere.

Before such a result could by any possibility be attained the active interference of the United States would be inevitable. The history of the past century shows unmistakably-that our government has viewed with marked disfavor any attempt on the part of the South American republics to form a union. We discountenanced it ex-plicitly under John Quincy Adams, and it is not likely that in this direction our pol-icy has weakened under President Roosevelt. Besides, such a change in the politi-cal map of South America as Cas.ro's "Greater Colombia" contemplates would in-fringe the Monroe doctrine as well as imperil the maintenance of the isthmus as a free and open thoroughfare—and the



Jesuit Church, Cartagena.

United States is pledged by treaty to guard the isthmus and by tradition to uphold the Monroe doctrine.

Thus if Castro is financially able to continue his attack on Colombia and to keep peace meanwhile in Venezuela a pan-American conflict would seem to be speed!ly imminent, in which the United States would bear a hand as the probable ally of Colombia. Strangely enough, it would not be the first time that our troops have fought on Colombian and Venezuelan soil. On two memorable occasions in the past we have tasted the horrors of warfare in those tropical countries.

Way Back in 1806.

The first blow for South American independence was struck in 1806 by a party of Americans, New Yorkers, under the leadership of General Miranda, with the knowlédge and some say with the approval of President Jefferson. Most of our men were either killed or captured by the Spanish on this ill-fated expedition, and ten of them were hung in the public square of Puerto Cabello, where a monument has lately oeen erected to their memory by patriotic Vene-Years before that, however, before we

had achieved our own independence, Lawrence Washington, George Washington's half-brother, under the British Admiral Vernon, headed 3,600 Americans in the siege of Cartagena. He captured the fortress Boca Chica, at the entrance to the harbor, and made one of the most heroic assaults in history on the fortress of San Felipe, overlooking the walls of Cartagena. In this assault he was unsuccessful, and nearly every American who accompanied him perished either in battle or by the subtler ravages of fever. But he practically destroyed the old fort, and today it stands there as he left it in 1741, a ruin, one of the most picturesque ruins in America, but a monument as well to the bravery of those Americans who were the first to shed their blood on South American soil.

History is full of surprises. Puerto Ca-

are names of romantic, tragic import to the United States. But in the pan-American conflict that today threatens to surround these old places, what a reversal of history will need to be chronicled!

HE WANTED "SHEEPS."

But the Live or Toy Variety Did Not Exactly Suit. From the Kansas City Star.

A young Frenchman, recently arrived in this country, found himself a pleasant boarding place in East Blank street, where. most of the boarders were of long residence and were well acquainted-almost as members of a family. The Frenchman was a bright, intelligent, gentlemanly fellow, and was taken into full fellowship very soon. One night a little poker game was started-a "penny ante" game, or something of the kind. The Frenchman took to it very quickly and found it very fascinating. The next day he determined to purchase for himself a poker outfit to take back with him to France when he should return. So he went to a large department store and asked if they had some sheeps.

"Upstairs," said the polite clerk, "in the toy department."

The young man went up two floors and again asked for "sheeps." "Over in the far corner," said the floor

When he reached the counter to which he had been directed a young woman to whom he had made known his wants showed him a number of wooden sheep with

wool fastened on them. "Pardon, eet ees not zeese I want. weesh 'sheeps.' "Well, these are certainly sheep,"

the young woman, " and they are very good sheep." Then a new idea came to her, and she added: "Of course, if you want something cheaper you will find some tin animals over at that other counter,

"But it is not 'sheeps' I want, but 'sheeps' I want not 'sheeps' ze animals, but 'sheeps' to play wiz." but 'sheeps' to play wiz."

"My dear sir, these are 'sheep to play with!"

The poor man was growing distressed, when a second girl came to the rescue. "I know what you want," she said. "Come He went with her, and she piloted him

over to a counter on which were piled miniature ships, yachts, and so forth. "There you are!" she exclaimed tri-"But it is no, not zis! It is 'sheeps' zat I want.

By this time it began to be the general impression on the floor that the man was crazy, and this was strengthened by his explanation that he wanted the "sheeps" for his "aunties!"

"They must keep a boarding house," whispered one girl to another, "and he has mistaken this for a grocery.' But a sophisticated man overheard the Frenchman's remarks, and said:
"Excuse me, sir, but I think I understand pounded some theories with regard to the propagation of cancer, and I have since had a good many letters on the subject—more particularly with reference to the suggestion that houses become infected with the

Young Men at the Head of Colleges. From Success.

Surelee! Sheeps for pokeair! Zat ees

eet!"

The youngest college president is said to be John H. McCracken, who, at twenty-five, presides over Westminster College at Fulton, Mo., while his father, Henry M. Mc-Cracken, is the executive head of New York University. Jerome Hall Raymond, president of the University of West Virginia, was elected to that office when twen-ty-eight years old. President Boothe Col-well Davis of Alfred University, New York, was elected when thirty-two years old. Rev Burris A. Jenkins was two years younger when he became president of the University of Indianapolis. Dr. Daniel E. Jenkins, president of Parsons College, Iowa, was Just thirty years of age when he took the place, in 1896. Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman was thirty-eight years old when he went to preside over Correll University.

Barber-"Hab de back o' yo' neck shaved, Philosopher (in the chair)-"Nope. I can't see it myself, and nobody else cares

Jones (referring to the pleasant-faced lady who has just passed)—"Ah, my boy, I owe a great deal to that woman."

Brown—"Indeed! Who is she?"

Jones—"My landlady."—Tit-Bits.

publication, with [half a dozen dress pat-"I am speaking now of those who put their terns thrown in, "did you ever read 'The children or the talented children of impecunious persons through what is called the "When I was a girl," replied Mrs. Jobfinishing process on the other side of the sea, and not of those who merely educate "Um-when you were a girl," said Mr. the young folks in whom they are interest-Jobson, sulkily. "Now, I suppose you reed in music as a private accomplishment. member the part in that book in which Every day we hear of this or that young Moses, the son of the vicar, goes to the woman or man being sent abroad to comfair and is done out of his eyebrows-how plete his or her musical education. These he sells his horse, or his jackass, or someyoung men and women are unquestionably thing, for about two million gross of green Mrs. Jobson smiled and nodded her head "Oh, you remember that, then, do you?" said Mr. Jobson, sarcastically. "Very well. You remind me of that particular Moses. You are the easiest proposition when it comes to buying truck that there's no earth-ly sense in that I ever saw in my life. All

talented. I won't say they have learned al! of the art of music that is capable of being taught in this country, for that wouldn't be true. But they have reached a fairly advanced state of perfection in their respective specialties, and it is regarded as the proper thing by those looking after them to ship them to Europe to go through what is called the polishing-off process under the 'mahsters.' How many of these young persons are ever heard of in the real musical world? They study abroad for four or five years, often even longer, become, we will admit, pretty thorough musicians, but the end of it all is that they discover that while they no doubt possess plenty of talent, they have not that indefinable thing called genius, and it is only the genius that rises to the surface in this age of wide-spread cultivation in music. The home papers of these young persons contain frequent references to their tremendous progress in their studies in Europe while they are over there, and rosy pictures are painted in these papers as to how the local stu-dents abroad are going to set the world ablaze when they set out on their public careers. But only once in a thousand times, or I might almost say in ten thousand times, is such a forecast ever realized. The young student returns to the United States, gives a few exhibitions of his or her art to an admiring and enthusiastic home audience and then sets about the business

fecting herself as a pianiste. She wins, say, one of the numerous conservatory prizes at the wind-up of her studies and then, flushed with victory and foreseeing a great career on the pianoforte, she crosses to this country, expecting the concert man-agers to bid furiously for her services. She plays for them and they tell her that she does beautifully. They praise her exceedingly. But they don't book her for concert tours. They perceive that the girl is a pretty good player, but that she has no rating whatever as a great performer, and gen in 1809, this time as first secretary, they know that if they attempted to fea- and there he remained until notified of his ture her as a great performer they would not only be laughed at by the critics, but that they would lose money. So the young woman, a good deal chagrined, and with the feeling deep in her soul that she is not appreciated and that the concert managers are an ignorant lot when it comes to singling out artistes, returns to her people, plays a good deal at home affairs, develops an inevitable discontent over the world's lack of appreciation, and, in nine cases out of ten, winds up by getting married and reluctantly abandoning her aspirations for a career in the musical world in favor of

of making a public name. And that's where the hard fall usually comes in.

"It is the same way with young women who go abroad to have their voices cultivated. We read in occasional European letters written by partial friends that these young women are going to make Patti and Melba seem foolish when they emerge from their conservatories and set out on their operatic careers, and we experience a thrill over the coming success of an American girl. Only one out of a great many of these ever reaches the point where she makes beaming countenance as he deposited the heavy bundle on the dining room table with a great air. He removed his overcoat hurriedly and hung it on the hall rack, and then he began to cut the strings binding the big package while Mrs. Jobson stood by expectantly an actual appearance in a notable operation role, and when she does get to that point she generally makes a success of it. There are exceptions even to this rule, however. You'll remember the case of that Chicago girl who was so prodigiously boomed by cable after a few appearances in Pavis a by expectantly.

"I suppose," said Mr. Jobson, good-humoredly, while he was unfloing the package, "that you're filled with curiosity as to what is in this bundle, eh? Well, it's a bargain, if ever there was one. Don't remember ever having seen such a bargain before in few years ago, and who, when she appeared in New York later on, made a positive fizzle, showing a sweet but small voice and not enough dramatic talent to be worth

mentioning.
"The girls with expensively cultivated voices who fail to achieve an appearance Europe return to the United States lookindeed ever get it. I once stood by while Walter Damrosch tested, on the bare stage of Carnegie Music Hall in New York, the voices of sixteen young women who had spent years studying in Europe. They had not succeeded in accomplishing Euro appearances in opera, and they wanted Mr. Damrosch's pronunciamento as to their voices as a means of getting into the grand opera companies organized in the United States. Only one of the girls was found by Mr. Damrosch worthy of being classed as the possessor of a high-grade voice, and this girl was so utterly devoid of dramatic talent that she hasn't yet succeeded in getting on the operatic boards. A good many of these young women eventually drift into the cheaper grand opera companies, and some of them-with heavy enough hearts, after their long familiarity with great mu-

be duplicated anywhere on earth today—the man himself told me that this was one of only seven perfect copies of the collection in existence. Now we've got something to sic-go into the comic opera field.
"This or that American youth, we hear, has exhibited such wonderful talent on the violin that his moneyed friends have got look at and enjoy during the long winter evenings when we might otherwise be together and decided to send him abroad to yawning in each other's faces and wonder complete his education on the king of ining if it wasn't pretty near bedtime," and Mr. Jobson picked up one of the folios and struments. He remains away for the conventional length of time, and at the finish opened it at random. The folio, like all of the others, contained a lot of old-fashioned he is able to extract mighty sweet music from the violin-but there are thousands of wood cuts that looked like illustrations in youths all over Europe who can do that, and who are nevertheless looked upon as only fair performers. This job of becoming Mrs. Jobson picked up one of the numbers of "Picturesque Turkestan" and looked over it reflectively. There wasn't a smile nor a great violinist is the heaviest of all-I shouldn't say 'becoming a great violinist,' the flicker of a smile on her face as she however, for nobody 'becomes' that. The great violinist is simply born to it, and the "Um-yes; I saw about fifty or a hundred sets of 'Picturesque Turkestan,' just like merely talented handler of the bow might study and practice for a thousand years this one, in front of one of the second-hand book stalls last week. The sets were marked \$2 per set." without ever achieving the rank of gen-

iuses like Ysaye. "The American youth returns to this country and displays his technique to those in a position to push him along toward fame, and they frankly tell him that they can't get audiences into concert halls to listen to violinists who are not known and approved masters of the instrument. The young violinist goes to his home and organizes a philharmonic orchestra, or he becomes the leader of a theater orchestra and eats his heart out when compelled to play rag-time between the acts, or he goes to teaching. In any case his life is one

long disappointment.
"I am not, understand me, in any wise attempting to discourage the musical education of our young people. I would be fool-ish to do that, considering that I get my livelihood by teaching. But I know that the great majority of the young men and women who go abroad to study with high hopes of great careers are doomed to lifeong wretchedness of spirit over their lack of success when they are through with the 'polishing-off' process. I think we send too many of them over to the other side with ideas in their heads that are bound to be rudely dispelled. It would be a good thing if some sort of qual'ficat on board could be established in this country to pass upon the merit of young musicians contemplating foreign study, and to pick out thos possessing a sufficiently bright spark of genius to make it worth while for then to anticipate great things for themselves.

Willing to Oblige.

From Tit Bits. An Englishman at a dinner once told a tale of a tiger he had shot which measured twenty-four feet from snout to tail-tip. Every one was astonished, but no one ventured to insinuate a doubt of the truth of the story.

Presently a Scotchman told his tale. He had once caught a fish which he said he was unable to pull in alone, managing only to land it at last with the aid of six friends. 'It was a skate and it covered two acres. Silence followed this recital, during the offended Englishman left the table. The host followed. After returning he said the Scotchman: "Sir, you have insulted my

friend. You must apologize."
"I dinna insoolt him," said the Scot.
"Yes, you did, with your two-acre fish story. You must apologize."
"Well," said the offender, slowly, with

the air of one making a great concession, "tell him if he will take ten feet off that tiger I will see what I can do with the fish."

Supreme at That. From Life.

With touch that is as dainty
As any bird that preens
And sails above the whitecaps,
She skims the magazines. With eyes that are half-blinded

musical educations of their offspring or he had found out that she had paid out 50 proteges than any other people in the Late Arrivals of Members of the world," said a well-known local musician. Diplomatic Corps.

THE INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGES

Young Men in Many Important Positions.

ABILITY OF HIGH ORDER

Written for The Evening Star. The advent of another season witnesses the usual number of changes in the personnel of the diplomatic corps at Washington. The comings and goings which attend this annual reassignment to posts of duty is serving to emphasize a very evident tendency to allow younger men to play a prominent part in the field of international statecraft at the American capital. The American seat of government has, of course, always had its full share of the younger diplomats acting as secretaries and attaches of the foreign legations and embassies, but perhaps never before has so great a measure of important issues been intrusted to the negotiation of these more youthful representatives of foreign nations as during the past few months, a responsibility which, if indications be accepted, is to be continued in the future.

One of the most capable dipiomats among the younger contingent of the newcomers is M. Pierre de Margerie, the first secre-tary and counselor of the French embassy, who during the absence of M. Jules Cam-bon, the ambassador, has acted as charge where the hard fall usually comes in.

"Suppose the student is a young woman who, after great study in this country, has d'affaires ad interim. M. de Margerie entered the diplomatic service of his nation to the diplomatic service of his nation and the diplomatic service of his nation to the diplomatic service of his nation and the diplomatic service his nation and the diplomatic service his nation and t in 1885 as third secretary at Copenhagen From there he went to Constantinople, where he remained for ten years. He was stationed at the Turkish capital during the continuance of the Turko-Grecian war and throughout the troubles in Armenia, and, indeed, received a gold medal from the French government in acknowledgment of his services during the period of the Arme nian massacres. After his period of service in Turkey M.

de Margerie was again detailed to Copenhaappointment to Washington to succeed M.



M. Pierre de Margerie.

Thiebaut, who was transferred to Berne. Switzerland. The present first secretary of the French embassay would be a most valuable member of any embassy staff, for not only is M. de Margerie thoroughly conversant with diplomatic problems in Tur-key, but he has made a most thorough and exhaustive study of conditions in the far east, and particularly in China.

M. de Margerie is a son of Mr. Amelie de Margerle, a very well-known writer on philosophical and literary subjects, who has several times been laureate of the Academie Francaise, and who lately published a translation in French verses of Dante's Divine Comedy. M. de Margerie's mother was the daughter of Count de Lespinats, was the daughter of Count de Lespinats, known in his day as one of the best equestrians in France. Madame de Margerie is a daughter of Mr. Eugene Rostand, a well-known economist and writer and member of the Institut de France. Her brother, Edmond Rostand, is quite as well known in this country as in Furnaye by recreated. this country as in Europe by reason of his authorship of "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "L'Aiglon." Edmond Rostand has accepted the invitation of his sister to visit her in Washington this winter, and this circumstance alone will be sufficient to make the house at 1753 N street, formerly the home of Colonel Tyler, which has taken by the de Margeries, a social center. By a singular coincidence the cablegram in which M. de Margerie announced to his brother-in-law that he had secured a house in which to entertain him when he comes to America passed en route a message in which Rostand announced his election to the charmed circle of the "Forty Immor-

The Italian Ambassador. No single evidence of the aggressivenes of the younger men in diplomatic circles has caused more widespread comment than did the announcement some time ago of the appointment of Marquis Carbonari di Malaspina to succeed Baron Fava as Italian ambassador at Washington. Marquis Malaspina, who is forty-four years of age, is said to be the youngest man holding ambassadorial rank in the diplomatic service. Not many years ago he was second secretary of the Italian embassy at Washington, and within a year past has served as first



Madam de Margerie. (In foreground) and her sister.

secretary at Madrid. From the Spanish capital he was transferred direct to his first executive position as minister at Buenos Ayres, capital of the Argentine Republic. Diplomats were amazed at the
rapidity of the promotion when he was
found to be gazetted for so important a post
as that at Washington, and in the light of
the event set to work diligently studying
the policy of the new Italian premier. the policy of the new Italian premier.

Will Bring a Bride. Among the new envoys accredited to

Washington there is no more interesting washington there is no more interesting personality than that of Baron Ludoric Moncheur, the newly appointed minister from Belgium. Previous to his assignment to his present post Baron Moncheur was the Belgian envoy at the City of Mexico, and it was here that he became acquainted with Miss Charlotte Clayton, daughter of Gen. Powell Clayton, United States minister to Mexico, to which young lady he is to be married in the near future.

This international matrimonial alliance regions active consideration at the prospect for an active consideration at the next canal across the isthmus. A seal of approval for a young man's work came in the recent announcement to Senor Juan Cucel tas, the envoy from Uruguay and only son of the president of that republic, that he had been advanced in diplomatic rank from minister resident to minister plenipotene tiary and would henceforth be accredited to Mexico, as well as the United States.

WALDON FAWCETT,

This international matrimonial alliance

enough. If Castro's intention in the proposed conquest of Colombia has been correctly interpreted by his friends as well as his enemies he will not stop with Co-French embassy at Berne, Switzerland, and late occupant of the same position at the French embassy in Washington, has served to direct attention to the number of American women who have married foreign diple can women who have married foreign diplomats. One of the first marriages of this character took place in the White House during the administration of President Andrew Jackson, and the chief executive claimed the honor of giving away the bride, Miss Mary Lewis, the daughter of Mator Lewis bis intent. Major Lewis, his intimate friend and com-Major Lewis, his intimate friend and com-panion in arms. Miss Lewis was married to M. Alphonse Joseph Yver Pageot, a na-tive of Martinique, who first met the young lady while serving as secretary of the French legation at Washington and who was later appointed by Louis Philippe minister to the United States.

Romances Recalled.

Easily the most famous of all the earlier ceremonies which joined an American girl to a diplomat was that which united Harriet Beall Williams of Georgetown, a school girl of sixteen years, and Baron de Bodisco, the Russian representative at the Ameri-



can seat of government. All the diplomats stationed at Washington at the time were present in full court dress. Henry Clay gave the bride away, James Buchanan walked with one of the bridesmaids and President Van Buren and Daniel Webster were among the guests. Miss Olga de Bo-disco, the granddaughter of Madame de Bo-disco, is now first maid of honor to the Empress of Russia.

Russian diplomats have, indeed, shown a marked preference for American women. M. Georges Bahkmeteff while serving as secretary of legation was married to the daughter of General Beale. Later M. Bahkmeteff was made Russian minister to the Grecian court and during her residence in Athens the Queen of Greece took a great fancy to the American woman. Madame Bahkmeteff occasionally comes to this country to visit her mother, Mrs. Edward F. Beale, and her sister, Mrs. John R. Mc-Lean. Madame de Wollant, wife of the present first secretary of the Russian Em-bassy at Washington, is another American woman who occupies a prominent place in Russian diplomatic circles. The American wives of diplomats now resident at the capital are Duchess Virginia de Arcos, wife of the Spanish minister, who was married while her husband was stationed in the City of Mexico, and Mrs. Yung Kwai, the wife of the interpreter of the Chinese legation.

To return to the topic of the prominence

into which many of the younger diplomats at Washington have recently come, it may be well to call attention to the recent rec-ord of two of the members of the staff of the Argentine legation. During the long interval which preceded the appointment of Senor Don Martin Garcia Marou as Argentine minister Senor Antonio del Viso, the secretary of legation, acting as charge d'affaires, discharged ministerial duties so sattly that it would have occasion surprise in diplomatic circles to have seen him elevated to the rank of envoy.

The other member of the staff who has lately been winning laurels is Lieut. Juan S. Atwell, the naval attache, who has served as the commissioner of his government at the Pan-American exposition, and is said to be largely responsible for the



Lieut. Juan S. Attwell. Naval Attache of Argentine Legation.

father and grandfather of Lieut. Attwel were officers in the Argentine navy, and the young man graduated from the Argen-tine naval academy at the head of his class. During the fourteen years which have intervened since his graduation he has spent ten years in the United States as a member of the Argentine legation staff, Lieut. Attwell was first appointed naval attache at Washington in 1887, and remained at the American capital for five years, during which interval he several times served as acting secretary of lega-tion. He acted as secretary of the Argentine commission to the world's Columb an exposition at Chicago, and prior to his return to his native land was married to Miss Marguerite Estelle Huyck of Wash-Ayres in 1896 he was appointed secretary to the chief of staff of the navy and continued in this position until 1900, when he was again detailed to Washington. Among the military and naval attaches

of comparatively recent appointment to diplomatic posts at the national capital probably the greatest interest attaches to Lieutenant Colonel Wantanabe, an officer who was a witness of some of the most interesting operations of the Chinese-Japanese war and who is the first representative of the mikado's army ever accredited to Kashington as military attache and Ritmeister Baron von Kapherr, attache of the German embassy. The baron, who is said to enjoy the favor of the kaiser, holds the rank of a captain in the cavairy of the Prussian Guards, the famous Hussars of Potsdam. He was once an aid-de-camp on the staff of the late Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and also beld for a considerable length of time the post of military attache of the German embussy at Vienna.

The envoys from South and Central America, almost all of whom are comparatively young men, have seized of late a number of opportunities to display ability of a high order and other similar openings may be anticipated in the near future. Senor Dom Augusto F. Pulido, the Venezuela charge d'affaires, and Senor Don Carlos Martinez Silva, the Colombian minister, have each been parties to negotiations which threatened to become of a rather delicate nature, and similar possibilities may be said to confront Senor Don Luis F. Corea, the Nicaraguan minister, in view of the prospect